

Lesson Plan: Community Awareness – A Place Called Fairfax

Connection to POS Topic 4: Public Policy Fairfax County Government

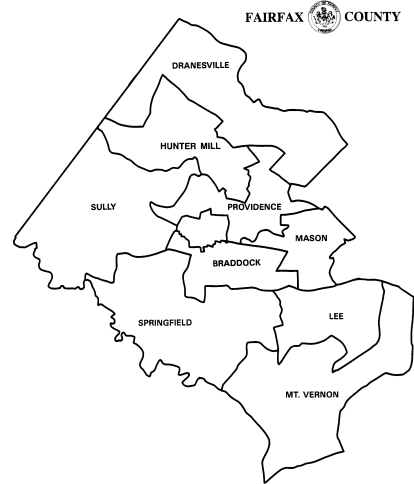
This is a basic locational geography activity using a variety of maps.



Objectives

At the end of this lesson students will be able to:

- locate Fairfax County on national and Virginia maps
- describe the relative location of Fairfax County and analyze the importance of that location
- develop a definition of community as it applies to Fairfax County



Materials

- Map masters: 50 states outline, Virginia cities and counties outline, regional outline, and supervisor districts outline
- A wall map or transparency of the United States
- A wall map or transparency of Virginia
- A transparency of the D.C. metropolitan area
- Recommended wall maps of Fairfax County: Districts (F), *Public Facilities*, 1998 (N), and *Comprehensive Land Use Plan*, 1995 (V) Available for purchase from Publications Office at the Government Center.



Time Needed

- 15 to 60 minutes



Procedures

1. Make individual copies of the outline masters and provide copies to each student. Have colored pencils available. Ask students to label and color the outline masters indicating the relative location of Fairfax County. Students should be able to identify the following neighboring jurisdictions: Arlington County, Prince William County, Loudoun County, City of Alexandria, Falls Church City, Fairfax City, Washington, D.C., and Montgomery County and Prince George's County in Maryland. The towns of Vienna, Herndon, and Clifton should also be noted.
2. Review the locations of the above places. Ask students to study the maps in preparation for a map quiz.



Assessment

- A map quiz.
- Map projects/drawings.



Extensions

- Consider creating a PowerPoint presentation. Use maps downloaded from the County Webmaster's Map Gallery.
- Have students create map projects and/or presentations.
- Defining a community: See Lesson Plan: *The Meaning of Community*